

# The Problem of Evil and Suffering

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# Who's asking?

The skeptic?




Someone who is hurting?



# Logical form of the problem of evil

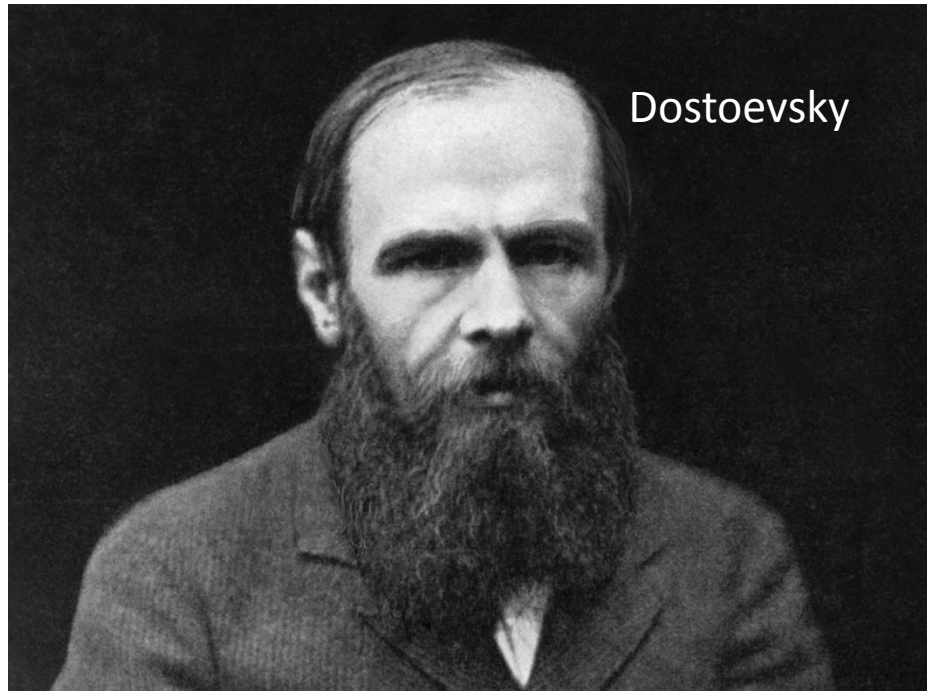
## Premises

1. If God exists, God is all-powerful
2. If God exists, God is good
-  3. An all-powerful, good God would not allow evil to exist
4. Evil exists

## Conclusion

Therefore God does not exist

# “Evil” exists?



# Logical form of the problem of evil

## Premises

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## Conclusion

Therefore God does not exist

# If I were God...

1. If I were God, I would prevent evil from happening.
2. Evil does happen.
3. Therefore God does not exist



Is it possible that we don't know what God would do?

# Theodicy

Be cautious about speculation.

Genesis 50:20. “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ”



# Modified form of the problem of evil

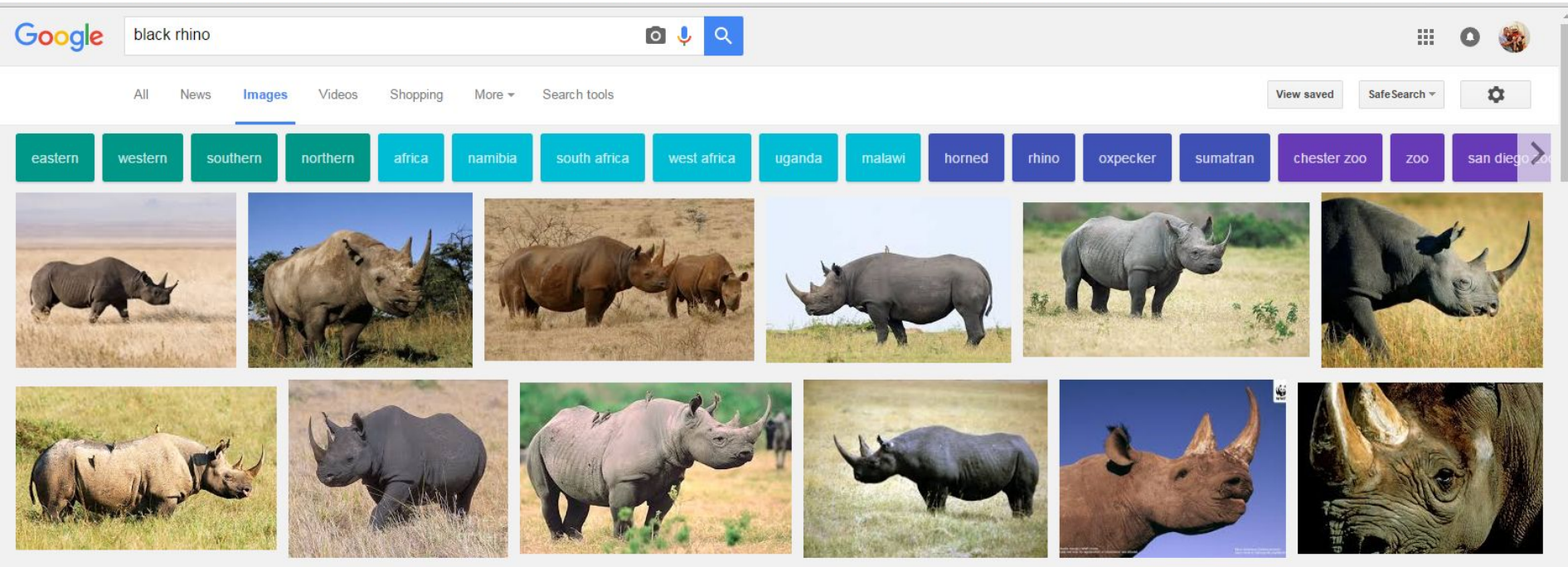
## Premises

1. If God exists, God is all-powerful
2. If God exists, God is good
3. An all-powerful, good God would not allow unnecessary evil to exist
4. Unnecessary evil exists

## Conclusion

Therefore God does not exist

# The “Google image search” problem



# The Bible Agrees!

- The world is full of sorrows
- What's the proper Christian response to a tragedy?
  - “How long O Lord?”
  - World is fallen and under judgment – This is a result of Sin (Luke 13:1-5)
  - We haven't seen the whole story yet

# The Personal Response

- Why do people bring up the Problem of Evil?
  - Intellectual arguments?
  - Or personal struggle?
- The real question is “Does God care?”



# Abraham & Isaac



I'll tell you something; if I was told to sacrifice  
[my children] to prove my devotion to God....and  
admire the man who said, **“Yes, I’ll gut my kid to  
show my love of God,”** I’d say,  
**“No. F--- you.”**

-Christopher  
Hitchens



# The Luthers' discussion



# The Luthers' discussion





# Point to the Gospel

- God the son enters into the suffering and redeems it.
  - He fixes our problem of evil
  - Whatever God's reasons are, we know that God cares
- We haven't seen the whole story yet.

“Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor 15:54)

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.” (1 Thess 4:13)